

December 1, 2011

Office of the Secretary
Postal Regulatory Commission
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POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

In the Matter of:

Venice Main Post Office, Venice, California, 90291

Docket No: A2012-17

Jethro Pauker, Petitioner

PARTICIPANT STATEMENT

1. Petitioner is appealing the Postal Service's Final Determination concerning the Venice post office. The Final Determination was posted September 23, 2011.
2. In accordance with applicable law, 39 U.S.C. § 404(d)(5), the Petitioner requests the Postal Regulatory Commission to review the Postal Service's determination on the basis of the record before the Postal Service in the making of the determination.

Commissioners:

Thank you for accepting this petition for relief. Understanding that time is of the essence, this petitioner will try to outline briefly support to remand the wrongful determination to close by relocation and service reduction the Venice Main Post Office (VMPO).

This petitioner supports Representative Hahn's statements regarding further degradation of the currently substandard window service wait time by reducing the number of available windows at the proposed new location, the failure of the proposal to account for required compliance with local planning and zoning codes, including Environmental and Traffic studies, and the proposal's remarkably low "relocation" cost estimate.

This petitioner agrees with concerns voiced by fellow stakeholders about numerous compliance failures - insufficient notice, flawed claims of "adequate" parking, lack of a proper hearing, the Carrier Annex's inability to serve a proposed expanded customer base, etc.

Further, this petitioner calls your attention to the following:

- Claim that no further review right existed on this issue: Consideration of this appeal, and of appeals submitted by fellow petitioners, show that assertion to be faulty on its face. Taken with reports that VMPO receives inadequate supplies, provides inadequate window services and other customer-serving resources, when no local alternative exists, the claim calls into question the procedural adequacy of closing the VMPO.

Jethro Pauker, Petitioner

- Failure to consider the historic and cultural contributions the Venice Post Office has delivered to the Venice community for seventy-two years: Built during the Great Depression under the Works Projects Administration - employing out-of-work Americans - the facility features in its lobby a priceless mural of Venice and its founder by noted artist Edward Biberman. Loss of this historic facility would deal a severe double blow to the community. Venetians are known for robust debate on all matters - with one exception: The community's disparate factions come together to agree on the importance of retaining the Venice Post Office in its current incarnation.
- Failure to consider the location's value: Were the Postal Service to sell the VMPO and flout local zoning and land use codes to move a fraction of its services to the nearby Postal Annex, the next time the agency considers selling the Annex (as it did some two years ago), it will be unable to do so. Venetians and visitors, already robbed of adequate service by loss of the VMPO, will have to travel further to patronize neighboring Santa Monica's modest facility, which is already in full use in a busy district of its own. Many will simply stop using the Postal Service. Thus, the Postal Service will be unable to sell the much more valuable Annex property and will have lost any chance to benefit from retention of the VMPO after having jettisoned it in a depressed market.
- Failure to consider impact on seventeen million annual tourists, who can today tour and patronize the Venice Post Office: To visitors in our highly eccentric, visitor-serving community, the Venice Post Office is our most recognizable symbol of national unity. It is a cornerstone of stability to all who live and visit here. Without the historic Venice Post Office, visitors would lose the critical daily reminder of values that made this country great in past hard times and will carry us to better times tomorrow.
- Failure to consider regional impact: While this Participant Statement supports the petitioner's individual appeal, this petitioner also serves as a popularly elected Neighborhood Council Board member, charged with the responsibility of relating stakeholder concerns to the City of Los Angeles. I can assure you that my eyes have seen the glory of my community's consensus on this matter. This and other proposed local Post Office closures, if effected, will visit serious detriments upon the City of Los Angeles, reducing critical federal services while increasing to an un-assessed extent traffic congestion in areas which already suffer from gridlock. Without proper impact data, no move can be made.

The Postal Service, brought to early maturity by Benjamin Franklin, was then our incubating democracy's first "internet," enabling Americans to communicate rapidly and consistently at an affordable cost, wherever we lived. This petitioner prays for due process in this matter, and for relief from the Postal Service's decision to close the Venice Main Post Office. Please apprise me of your decision.

Thank you for your consideration.



Jethro Pauker